

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:705
ANSWERED ON:22.10.2008
SALE OF BANNED MEDICINES IN INDIA
Chavda Shri Harisinh Pratapsinh

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a number of medicines banned in foreign countries are being sold in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE(DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS)

(a) & (b): Yes Sir, There is no global system of banning of drugs. Drugs banned in one country may continue to be marketed in other countries on the basis of risk assessment process undertaken by the respective Government. There exists a system of evaluation of safety and efficacy of drugs in the country, in consultation with experts before permitting their market authorization or in the cases of reports of adverse events on the use of a drug.

(c): 1. The screening of drug formulations marketed in the country and considered harmful or irrational in the context of present technical knowledge was started in early 80's and the Drugs and Cosmetics Act 1940 was amended in 1982 to empower Central Govt. to prohibit manufacture and sale of drugs considered harmful or irrational, through notification under the said Act.

2. Drugs, for which harmful effects are reported, or if therapeutic justification is considered inadequate in the context of current medical evidence, are examined by Expert Committee under Drugs Technical Advisory Board (DATB) on a continuous basis.

3. So far, 78 categories of Drugs /drug formulations have been prohibited for marketing in the country.